

**STAFFORD COUNTY  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 5, 2009**

Call to Order. An annual meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission was called to order by Anita Dodd, at 3:13 P.M., Thursday, February 5, 2009 in the ABC Conference Room, Stafford County Administration Center.

Roll Call. The following members were present: Anita Dodd, Chairperson; Steve Gambaro, Vice Chairperson; Jane Conner and Cessie Howell. Stewart Jones Ed.D. was absent. Also in attendance were: Kathy Baker, Assistant Director, Planning and Zoning; Terry Baxley Morton, Commission Clerk.

Presentations by the Public. No one desired to speak.

Item 1. Organize Commission. This item was deferred until March 5, 2009, giving the Board of Supervisors an opportunity to appoint additional members to the Commission.

Item 2. Adopt By-Laws and Rules of Procedure. Discussion ensued.

Cessie Howell motioned, seconded by Jane Conner to approve the Commission's By-Laws with a change regarding what constitutes a quorum and posting the approved meeting minutes on the Commission's web-page on the County's web-site.

The Voting Commission Tally was:

Yea: (4) Conner, Dodd, Gambaro, Howell

Nay: (0)

Absent: (1) Jones

Item 3. Information and Discussion in reference to an Ordinance regarding Demolition of Structures.

Kathy Baker said she inquired with Keith Dayton, Director of Code Administration. He said the request for the ordinance must come from the Board of Supervisors. The Commission desires to work with Code Administration and its needs. Anita Dodd said there was discussion with Keith Dayton regarding the reports from EHT Traceries, Inc. and getting the structures in the report flagged along with the historical districts and the cemeteries. She informed Keith Dayton; the Board requested the survey from EHT Traceries, Inc. for recording it in the County's Cultural Resource database. Anita Dodd said she interpreted the request as giving Code Administration the authority to flag certain structures. Kathy Baker said there is no benefit if there is not a procedure in place for the County to act on. The Historical Preservation Planner is notified if a structure is flagged. Kathy Baker said after the planner is notified the County has no authority to require the owner to allow County staff time to review and document the structure's history. Direction to allow a particular amount of time for recordation would have to be authorized by the Board. Demolition permits are issued over the counter. The County currently has a separate cemetery ordinance in place, however, does not have a cultural resource ordinance. The State currently gives the County authority to review structures in historic districts only. Anita Dodd iterated the use of the term cultural resource in place of the term historic, covering a broader

spectrum. She said structures are not necessarily historical but reflect a particular period in the County and are important for information and recordation. The Fannie Roots House is an example of a cultural resource as opposed to a historical structure.

Cessie Howell suggested contacting a representative from the Department of Historical Resources regarding how other jurisdictions define and preserve cultural resources outside of a historical district. Kathy Baker said the County can give recommendations from the County's Cultural Resource Management Plan but cannot require the owner wait while staff is able to review and record the structure to be demolished. Kathy Baker said staff of Code Administration are concerned with the time frame it would take for historical staff members to conduct the recordation. Cessie Howell said she would research other jurisdiction's policies and procedures regarding this subject. Anita Dodd said she has completed some research and found that Hanover County has an ordinance that requires the owner to provide a particular amount of time; however, it is still in regard to historic districts only and not cultural resources. Anita Dodd reiterated that Cessie Howell follow up on this subject.

Item 4. Appointment of Members to the Landfill Civil War Sites Committee. The Board is developing a Landfill Civil War Sites Committee and desires the Historical Commission have one of its members serve on this committee. Jane Conner volunteered to serve on the committee. Cessie Howell said she would serve as a substitute when necessary. Anita Dodd said the member serving on this committee could report to the Commission on issues.

Item 5. Update on Stafford County Historical Commission Historical Preservation Awards. The Commission inquired about the Board's availability for a small reception prior to presenting the awards in May. The Board Clerk will advise the Commission Clerk when the Chairman of the Board sets the date.

Item 6. Discussion on Historic Park Near the County Landfill. There was question regarding the official name of the park.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Item 7. Approve Minutes of Commission Meeting. Steve Gambaro motioned, seconded by Cessie Howell to approve the December 4, 2008 Commission meeting minutes.

The Voting Commission Tally was:

Yea: (4) Conner, Dodd, Gambaro, Howell  
Nay: (0)  
Absent: (1) Jones

Report of the Chairperson. Anita Dodd commented on the following:

- Chatham Heights Buildings – 513 & 515 Pratt Street – 245 & 309 Chatham Heights Road – Demolition Update - She has measured one building and will measure the additional buildings. She photographed the buildings and will record them prior to demolition.
- Technical Review Committee (TRC) - a nursing home in the England Run area - A phase one study was conducted on the property. The site had much disturbance. A Civil War trench runs through the site. She requested the builder record the placement of the trench on the site plans.

- TRC - West Lake located on US-17 near the Vulcan Quarry site - This project has many issues including cultural resources. A school site is proposed within the project. Initially in 2005, she submitted several recommendations for this project. The builder committed to a proffer, at that time that included cultural resources. She will receive a copy of the phase one study.
- TRC - Two Reclassifications – The first has two very small houses and is on Onville Road off SR-610 to be demolished. The second reclassification is on George Mason Road near Quantico Corporate Center, the existing building will be temporarily occupied. She will photograph this structure.
- TRC - Telecommunications Facility – To be constructed next to Leeland VRE Station - The developer is including the Historical Commission as a consulting party. She will receive additional information on the facility.
- Accokeek Furnace – The actual furnace site now belongs to the George Washington / Fredericksburg Foundation (GWFF). Augustine gave approximately 21 acres to GWFF. The proffer included refurbishing part of the area that runs through Accokeek Creek. A storm exposed additional cultural resources than were discovered previously. She is concerned the developer's proposal will destroy a portion of a historical resource.
- Cemetery Committee, Anita Dodd, Chairperson – The Cemetery Committee desires to have state law changed to be stricter regarding moving cemeteries. The Cemetery Committee does not think decisions are uniform regarding cemeteries statewide.
- TRC requests responses from the Historical Commission; however, the material is frequently not available in time for the Commission's review and recommendations. Anita Dodd explained TRC contacts her regarding recommendations for cultural resources and preservation for plans submitted to the Planning & Zoning Department for approval. The current Cultural Resource Management Plan states the Historical Commission is to convey recommendations. Kathy Baker suggested that Anita Dodd submit her comments and recommendations as a DRAFT until the Commission can review the plans for recommendations. Anita Dodd said she would forward all information to the Commission as she receives it. The Commission (as a whole) can then submit a correspondence to TRC with a confirmation and/or changes.

Discussion ensued.

Presentations and Reports by Commission Members. Commission members spoke on topics as identified:

- Commission members committed to visit historical and cultural resource sites with the Chairperson of the Commission in the future.
- Jane Conner – Stated she desired to rescind her offer to serve on the Landfill Civil War Sites Committee due to time restrictions in her schedule. Cessie Howell said she would take the position with the agreement that Jane Conner would serve in Cessie Howell's absence.
- Steve Gambaro – Nothing to report at this time.
- Cessie Howell – Cessie Howell requested an update on the Fannie Roots House. Anita Dodd said the possibilities range from demolition to preservation. She attended a meeting at University of Mary Washington with additional agencies present. The University's main

interest in the building is how it can serve the students. She described the house in detail. Cessie Howell commented on the house.

- Anita Dodd asked the Commission to offer recommendations on the Fannie Roots House in time for her to report to the University at their March meeting.

- Anita Dodd introduced Ann Best-Rolls. She is interested in serving on the Commission.

Adjournment. At 4:56 P.M., the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Anita Dodd – Chairperson